Steps have been taken to create additional capacity in the existing major ports under various plan schemes as well as through private sector investment to meet growing demand of the trade.

A new port at Ennore, 25 kms. north of Chennai, is being constructed at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 927.10 crores with assistance from Asian Development Bank with a capacity to handle 16 million tonnes of coal. The port is expected to be commissioned

Formation of Road Fund Board

†751. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided during last year to raise funds by imposing a cess of rupee one per litre on diesel and petrol for the development and expansion of roads;

(b) if so, the total amount collected so far by means of this cess;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a decision to manage the said collected amount by a Road Fund consisting of three members, was also taken;

(d) if so, whether the said Board had been constituted;

(e) if not, the reason therefor; and

(f) what arrangement is being made for maintaining the account of expenditure of this collected amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exact details are not available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) Normal governmental procedures apply.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.